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RUSSIANS CHARGE CIA INVOLVED IN OPIUM TRADE

ART CURLEY: In a big building in nearby northern Virginia, executives of the Central Intelligence Agency sit around brainstorming about how to deal with America's enemies. They've come up with a new trick, if Moscow sources can be believed. WTOP correspondent Frank Taylor reports. (TAPE)

FRANK TAYLOR: The United States Central Intelligence Agency has been accused of many things in the past. Today the Soviet Union added something new to the list: growing opium in collaboration with Communist China. The charge came in the Soviet farming newspaper (RUSSIAN NAME) and it said that the CIA has built up a profitable opium trade in the northern regions of Laos, Thailand, and Burma. Supported by the CIA, bands of Nationalist Chinese troops work the opium poppy fields on the border of the Communist Chinese province of Yunnan, said the newspaper.

Then CIA planes flew the poppies out to American military bases in the Far East. The opium was processed on Taiwan and in the Philippines and then sold in Hong Kong and Macao. When internal transportation was recently disrupted inside Communist China, the CIA offered to buy opium plants directly from the Chinese. In this way, said the newspaper, the CIA was able to swell its budget and the Chinese could earn dollars. This is Frank Taylor in Moscow.